

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:540

ANSWERED ON:21.11.2002

OFFER OF NEW BLOCKS FOR EXPLORATION UNDER NELP

M.H. AMBAREESH

**Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to offer 23 new blocks of hydrocarbon reserves for exploration under NELP;
- (b) if so, the details of the blocks to be offered for exploration;
- (c) whether these blocks were earlier surveyed by the ONGC for exploration but left the idea of exploration; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MI  
OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b) : With a view to attract larger investments and to accelerate the exploration efforts to add new reserves, the Government has formulated the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) under which bids for exploration of oil and gas are invited following an open global bidding system. In the third offer of blocks under NELP, 27 blocks including 11 onland, 7 offshore and 9 deepwater blocks have been offered. By the bid closing date of 28.8.2002, 23 blocks consisting of 8 onland blocks, 6 shallow water offshore and 9 deepwater blocks have attracted bids. The exploration activities including identification and offer of blocks through NELP is a continuous and ongoing process.

(c) & (d) : Some of the blocks which have attracted bids under the third offer of NELP have been identified and included for offer on the basis of pre-exploratory-surveys made by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL).